Drug trafficking on Indo-Burma border

2490. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent civil disturbances in Burma have increased the vulnerability of the border areas to drug trafficking; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the measures taken to control the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) While the possibility of increased vulnerability of the border areas to drug trafficking due to civil disturbances in Burma cannot be ruled out, Government have no reports on the same. However, all enforcement agencies operating on the Indo-Burma sector have already been alerted to thwart any attempt of drug trafficking across that border.

An Indian delegation, headed by the Minister of State for Finance (Revenue) visited Burma in July, 1988. In the talks with the Burmese authorities, the drug trafficking situation in both the countries and the counter-measures taken were re-reviewed with an emphasis for institutionalising the exchange of information between the law enforcement agencies of both the countries.

The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate follow-up action.

2491. [*Transferred to the 5th December, 1988.*]

Use of Military forces to control riots etc.

2492. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many ties the military forces were used to control riots and other law and order problems in the country during the last four years; and

(b) what were its effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) As a last resort to control riots and to maintain law and order, personnel of the Armed forces were used 167 times during the last four years (1984—87). As a result, law and order and peace was maintained in the affected areas.

Import of Poley-Baloon Catheters

2493. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Poley-Baloon Catheterns are eligible for import as life saving equipments in terms of OGL Appendix-6, list 2 of ITC 88—91; and

(b) if so, under what heading and serial of the said list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The matter is under examination in consultation with the concerned technical authorities and information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corruption amongst police personnel in Delhi

2494. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is widespread corrup-

tion amongst police personnel who are freely demanding and getting regular grafts funds from pavement hawkers and vehicle owners for alleged infringement of rules etc. in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are also aware that is has become a routine for police stations and chowkies to get free food supplies from several Restaurants/Dhabas, etc.; and

(c) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Vigilance inquiry is conducted whenever complaints are received. Suitable action is also taken if charges are substantiated.

Press Conference held by senior officials of US Administration in Delhi on International property

2495. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Press Conference was held by senior officials of the US Administration in Delhi on the 27th July, 1988 on International property;

(b) whether any Government officials from his Ministry attended the Press Conference;

(c) what is the detailed report received by his Ministry on this Press Conference;

(d) whether it is a fact the US officials openly criticised the Indian Patent Act in this Press Conference;

(e) whether his Ministry lodged a complaint with the US Government for this open criticism;

(f) whether it is also a fact US Government officials threatened to block Indian exports to the United States citing the example of Brazil; and

(g) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (g) A US delegation had visited India in July, 1988 for discussions on issues connected with the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and other bilateral issues with the Government of India. Two members of this delegation are understood to have briefed some journalists on the US views on Intellectual Property Rights. No Government official attended the briefing. However, the Ministry has seen the reports that have appeared in the press.

The US officials expressed the well-known views of the US government about the need for an international accord on intellectual property and about the adequacy of Indian patent laws. No action is called for by the government on these press statements

Central Assistance for environmental Improvement scheme in Madhya Pradesh

2496. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an environmental improvement scheme has been prepared for Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs 1.50 crores.

(b) whether the scheme coupled with the conservation and development of forests will be initiated in